

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, and 27. Further, the Examiner objected to claims 3, 4, and 30 for depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims each contain allowable subject matter. The Examiner withdrew claims 5, 28, and 29 from consideration, and Applicants canceled claims 7-26 in a previous communication. Applicants thank the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter in the present claims. By the present Response, Applicants have chosen to place the present application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 27 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 3 and 30, respectively. Additionally, Applicants added new claim 31, which is believed allowable as discussed below. Finally, Applicants canceled claims 5, 28, and 29 without prejudice. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 27, and 31 will be pending in the present patent application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all pending claims.

New Claim

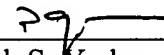
As noted above, claim 31 has been added by the present Response. Applicants respectfully note that claim 31 merely incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 4 into the recitations originally provided in claim 1. Applicants also note that, in the last Office Action, the Examiner indicated that this combination is allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, claim 31 is believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the earlier cancellation of multiple independent claims, no fees are believed due for the addition of independent claim 31 in this Response.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patrick S. Yoder
Reg. No. 37,479
FLETCHER YODER
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

ALLEN-BRADLEY COMPANY, LLC
Patent Department/704P Floor 8 T-29
1201 South Second Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204
Attention: Mr. Alexander Gerasimow
Phone: (414) 382-2000